

Board of Nursing

Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing is responsible for the protection of the public's health, welfare, and safety through the regulation of nursing, nursing education, nursing practice, and disciplinary standards. The Board of Nursing's responsibility is to implement a cost-effective and efficient system of regulation which meet the consumer demand for safe, competent, ethical practitioners of nursing which includes advanced practice nurses, registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants.

Results of outcomes

The Board of Nursing regulates the practice and education of the largest numbers and variety of health care practitioners in the state. The board licensed and regulated the practice of one1,241 licensee/certificate holders which includes 234 advanced practitioners of nursing, 5,104 registered professional nurses, 1,073 licensed practical nurses, and 4,830 certified nursing assistants in Wyoming as of June 30, 2003.

The board licensed by endorsement 14 advanced practice nurses, 285 registered professional nurses, 57 licensed practical nurses and 112 certified nursing assistants; re-licensed 40 registered professional nurses, 13 licensed practical nurses and 28 certified nursing assistants; reactivated the licenses of 10 registered professional nurses and five licensed practical nurses; verified the licenses to other states of 338 registered professional nurses, 44 licensed practical nurses and 99 certified nursing assistants. The board also issued temporary permits to 280 registered professional nurses, 136 licensed practical nurses, seven certified nursing assistant, 189 graduate registered nurses, 123 graduate practical nurses, and three graduate nursing assistants.

The board examined 194 candidates for registered nurse licensure (85.96 percent pass rate; national pass rate: 88.87 percent, 112 candidates for practical nurse licensure (92.23 percent pass rate; national pass rate 86.57 percent), and 1122 candidates for nursing assistant certification (88.79 percent pass rate). The overall performance of Wyoming candidates on the national licensing examination exceeded the national mean performance of all candidates in the United States for practical nursing and was less than the national mean performance for registered professional nurses.

The board renewed the licenses of 4467 registered professional nurses, 207 advanced practice nurses, 851 licensed practical nurses and 3231 certified nursing assistants during the renewal period which ended December 31, 2002.

General information

Cheryl L. Koski, executive director

Agency contact

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Other locations

None

Year established and reorganized

1909

Statutory references

WS 33-21-119 thru WS 33-21-156

Number of authorized personnel

Seven full-time

Organization structure

Governor, Administration and Information,
Board of Nursing, Executive Director, Assistant
Executive Director, Board of Nursing Staff

Clients served

General Public; Registered Nurses (RN's);
Advanced Practice Nurses (APN's); Licensed
Practical Nurses (LPN's); Certified Nursing
Assistants (CNA's); Nurse Aide Training
Programs; Nursing Education Programs; Health
Care Facilities

Budget information

General funds	\$0
Federal funds	\$0
Agency funds	\$605,093.50
TOTAL	\$605,093.50

Agency which group reports to

Administration and Information

Number of members

Seven

Meeting frequency

At least quarterly; generally four to six times per year for four days.

The board enforced the education and training standards for 13 in-state nursing education programs across the state which includes seven associate degree nursing programs, five practical nursing programs and one baccalaureate degree nursing program. The board conducted two site visits to associate degree nursing programs with practical nursing exit options and one site visit to an associate degree nursing program. All three programs were granted full approval for a period of eight years. The board also approved two out-of-state nursing education programs to provide clinical nursing education training in Wyoming.

The board monitored the education and training standards for 47 nurse aide training programs. This includes 37 NATCEP programs in long term care, five in high schools, 10 in community colleges (includes out reach sites), one in state facilities, and two free standing programs. The board visited and approved/reapproved all 47 nurse aide training programs this past year. Twenty four programs were approved for two years and 14 were approved for one year. Five programs cannot admit students until compliance with federal regulations is met.

The board processed and conducted investigations on 94 cases this past year against registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants/nurse aides for violation of the Wyoming Nurse Practice Act and/or the board Administrative Rules and Regulations. These cases included 29 complaints, 63 applications for licensure/certification and two failure to disclose. The board dismissed three disciplinary cases, issued 34 advisory letters, placed conditions on one license, accepted the voluntary surrender of two licenses, revoked 4 licenses/certifications, issued two letters of reprimand, approved the licensure/certification of eight applicants, and denied 16 applications for licensure/certification. The board conducted 12 administrative contested case hearings.

The board issued 10 advisory opinions related to nursing and nursing practice issues, answered six written practice inquiries and 10 surveys. All advisory opinions have been placed on the board's website.

The Board of Nursing continues to contract with the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program to allow WPAP to serve as the board's agent for the purpose of monitoring all impaired nurses in the state who enter the program either voluntarily or through Order of the board. Currently, there are 32 registered professional nurses in the program, of which two are in reciprocal agreements with other states. Nine of these nurses are board Ordered into the program (8 RNs and one LPN).

The board has been working to enter into full service nurse aide testing with Promissor. Conversion to a full service contract should be complete by September 1, 2003. This will assist in expediting the processing and testing of examination applicants for certification as a nursing assistant.

GOAL A: Maximize effectiveness in public protection and service.

OBJECTIVE A1: Remain current on standards and issues related to nursing practice, education, and discipline.

OBJECTIVE A2: Educate the public regarding the practice and regulation of nursing and nursing education.

OBJECTIVE A3: Modify and improve outreach and public service efforts to address the increasing diversity and changing needs of the population (e.g. aging population, increased diversity of language and culture).

OBJECTIVE A4: Evaluate effectiveness of all WY Board of Nursing programs through ongoing systematic program evaluation.

OBJECTIVE A5: Coordinate activities with other governmental agencies to improve public protection and service.

GOAL B: Create an environment that promotes success in order to better serve the public.

OBJECTIVE B1: Increase communication across all levels.

OBJECTIVE B2: Create an environment that is supportive of productivity and satisfaction.

OBJECTIVE B3: Continue to evaluate the organizational structure to ensure that it serves the mission and goals of the board.

OBJECTIVE B4: Continually review statutes and update regulations to ensure public protection and prevent unnecessary regulatory burden.

GOAL C: Take a leadership role in structuring 21st century health care related to all levels of nursing, nursing education and nursing practice and disciplinary standards.

OBJECTIVE C1: Actively participate in shaping health care policy on behalf of consumers of services.

OBJECTIVE C2: Ensure that nurses are prepared to be competent for their role in a changing health care delivery system.

OBJECTIVE C3: Educate the public regarding the evolving trends and issues impacting nursing, nursing education, nursing practice and regulations at all levels.

Agency outcome measures (Indicators) are the number of registered professional nurses (RN's), licensed practical nurses (LPN's), advanced practice nurses (APN's) and certified nursing assistants (CNA's) licensed by examination, endorsement, renewal, relicensure, and reactivation ; number of nursing education and nurse aide training programs that meet prescribed education standards , graduates of approved nursing education and nurse aide training programs, and percent passing NCLEX and nurse aide examination; number of advisory opinions published in relation to nursing and nursing practice issues; number of disciplinary cases, investigations, and hearings conducted.